

Message Text

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 01177 280535Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EA-10 EUR-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NASA-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
DOE-15 SAS-02 CEQ-01 OES-09 SS-15 ICA-11 /163 W
-----123496 280540Z /11

R 270927Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4609
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 1177

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY ADHERENCE

REF (A) STATE 205388, (B) STATE 206284

1. CHARGE TOOK OCCASION OF DISCUSSION AUGUST 23 WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY YUSUF AL-ALAWI TO RAISE TOPIC OF NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. CHARGE REITERATED USG WISH TO SEE ADHERENCE FROM AS MANY STATES AS POSSIBLE. REGARDING ARAB POSITION, CHARGE NOTED THAT QUITE A FEW ARAB STATES HAVE ADHERED. ALAWI BACKED AWAY FROM PREVIOUS ASSERTION (MUSCAT 0605 NOTAL) THAT THERE IS A SPECIFIC ARAB POLICY, BUT HE DID NOT CHANGE HIS VIEW THAT OMAN MUST FOLLOW ARAB CONSENSUS, AND THAT THIS CONSENSUS IS NEGATIVE ON ADHERENCE PENDING WHAT ISRAEL DOES.

2. WE BELIEVE APPROACH SUGGESTED REF B TO BE TAKEN
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PAGE 02 MUSCAT 01177 280535Z

WITH SAUDIS MIGHT BE FRUITFUL IN PROMPTING OMANI ADHERENCE, PROVIDED OMAN IS NOT THE ONLY ONE OF THE FIVE GULF STATES TO ADHERE FOLLOWING SUCH A SAUDI STATEMENT. IN OTHER WORDS, OMAN WOULD STILL WANT TO BE A FOLLOWER RATHER THAN A LEADER.
SIZER

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 01177 02 OF 02 290947Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 /012 W
-----127706 290953Z /10 R

O R 290441Z NOV 78
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4848
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

5. TO BE SURE, OUR NON-RESIDENT PAO'S HAVE SERVED US WELL, AND WITH THE SUPPLEMENTARY EFFORTS OF OUR RESIDENT STAFF THEY HAVE PUT ON THREE OR FOUR MAJOR CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS EACH YEAR AND HAVE SCHEDULED OTHER SPEAKERS OR EXHIBITS AS SUITABLE. WE SEND THREE OR FOUR WELL-PLACED OMANIS TO THE U.S. ON IV GRANTS ANNUALLY. IN THE INFORMATION FIELD, OUR NEW ENGLISH AND ARABIC WIRELESS FILE CAPABILITY ENABLES US TO DISTRIBUTE DIALY PRESS ITEMS TO THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS AND TO KEY GOVERNMENT PERSONALITIES, A SERVICE THAT WE KNOW THESE RECIPIENTS APPRECIATE. WE HAVE DEVELOPED A FRUITFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH RADIO OMAN, TO WHICH OUR PAO SENDS AUDIO TAPES FREQUENTLY. WE ARE TRYING TO START A SIMILAR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LOCAL TELEVISION STUDIO FOR VIDEO TAPES. THE COUNSELING OF OMANI STUDENTS GOING TO THE U.S. IS A CONTINUING ICA AND EMBASSY EFFORT, AND OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IS GOOD. ALL THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE MORE ROUTINE PAO EFFORTS IN MAILING OUR ICA PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER EFFORTS TO PURSUE OUR OUTREACH PROGRAM.

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PAGE 02 MUSCAT 01177 02 OF 02 290947Z

CATIONS AND OTHER EFFORTS TO PURSUE OUR OUTREACH PROGRAM.

6. YET ALL OF US, INCLUDING OUR PAO, ARE AWARE THAT MORE COULD AND SHOULD BE DONE IN NEARLY ALL THESE AREAS. THE WORKING UP OF TARGET AUDIENCES AND THE CULTIVATION OF KEY PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONTACTS SHOULD BE MORE SYSTEMATIC. PROCESSING IV GRANTEES PROPERLY AND FOLLOWING UP THEIR RETURN IS A TIME-CONSUMING JOB THAT NEEDS MORE ATTENTION THAN WE CAN NOW SPARE.

ABOVE ALL, OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE NEWSPAPERS AND THE TELEVISION STUDIO ARE STILL EMBRYONIC AND WILL REQUIRE ALMOST DAILY MONITORING TO BE FULLY SUCCESSFUL. FINALLY, THE BURDEN PLACED ON OUR RESIDENT STAFF BY THE DAY-IN-DAY-OUT ICA WORKLOAD HAS REACHED THE POINT WHERE BOTH IT AND THEIR OTHER WORKLOADS TEND TO SUFFER. IN FACT, OUR RECENTLY ARRIVED AMBASSADOR MAY DECIDE THAT WE WILL HAVE TO CUT BACK ON THE CURRENT LEVEL OF IA ACTIVITIES UNLESS AN ICA OFFICER CAN BE ASSIGNED. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF A RESIDENT PAO TO SIGNIFICANTLY EASE THIS VERY REAL STRAIN.

7. FOR ALL THESE REASONS WE URGE THAT ICA BE PERSUADED TO DROP ANY PLANS IT MAY HAVE TO ELIMINATE THE NEW MUSCAT POSITIONS. IT STRIKES US THAT BUREAUCRACIES SUDDENLY FACED WITH EXTERNALLY IMPOSED CONSTRAINTS OFTEN MAKE EASY RATHER THAN WISE DECISIONS. ICA PROBABLY FINDS IT SIMPLER TO CUT OUT THESE STILL-UNFILLED POSITIONS THAN TO SEARCH OUT OTHER PLACES IN ITS SYSTEM
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PAGE 03 MUSCAT 01177 02 OF 02 290947Z

WHERE THE SAME AMOUNT OF MONEY COULD BE SAVED. THE THEORY MAY BE THAT NEW VENTURES SHOULD BE ABANDONED AND CONCENTRATION PUT ON FEWER PLACES. THE RESULT IN THIS CASE WOULD BE THAT A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY WOULD BE LOST TO MAKE A TRULY EFFECTIVE IMPACT ON U.S. RELATIONS IN ONE SMALL BUT NOT UNIMPORTANT COUNTRY BY THE ADDITION OF JUST ONE OFFICER AND THREE SUPPORTING STAFF OF NATIONALS. THAT IS POOR COST EFFECTIVENESS, WE THINK, EVEN IN THE SHORT RUN. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE ICA SHOULD ALSO BE THINKING OF ITS OWN FUTURE AS A PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION. WHERE ELSE IS THERE SUCH A CHANCE FOR A YOUNG ICA OFFICER, PREFERABLY ARABIC-TRAINED, TO LEARN THE ROPES OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ACROSS ITS BROAD RANGE? WE DOUBT THAT HE WILL GET THIS, TO FOLLOW UP EMBASSY DOHA'S POINT, AS ONE OF 19 AMERICANS IN THE ICA OFFICE IN BONN. WE HOPE THAT ICA WILL REALIZE THIS AND MAKE THE DECISION THAT REFLECTS ITS REPUTATION AS A FORWARD-LOOKING ORGANIZATION SERVING THE USG VIRGOROUSLY AND WELL.
WILEY

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